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Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/38 entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation", requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 20 February 2014, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. The reply of the European Union is reproduced in section III, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 65/276. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2014]

The need to peacefully resolve existing international disputes underscores the importance of multilateralism in addressing potential threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The existence of nuclear weapons remains the greatest danger facing humankind. For Cuba, the total elimination of nuclear weapons is a priority in the field of disarmament. In this regard, Cuba supports the negotiation of an international, legally binding and non-discriminatory convention, in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

The stalemate in the negotiations within the multilateral disarmament machinery, which has persisted for several years and which stems from the lack of political will on the part of certain countries, makes it all the more necessary to intensify multilateral efforts. Unfortunately, the triennial cycle of substantive discussions of the Disarmament Commission on the topics "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" and "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons" ended without substantive agreements.

The Conference on Disarmament should start negotiations on nuclear disarmament without further delay.

Among the multilateral efforts made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to promote nuclear disarmament, the holding of the first-ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 stands out as a noteworthy achievement. Cuba believes that this meeting constituted a concrete step towards achieving the desired objective of nuclear disarmament.

Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation cannot be achieved through unilateral measures. Multilateralism and political solutions negotiated through the multilateral organs established for

such purposes and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations continue to be the only suitable way to settle disputes.

On the pretext of alleged threats to national security, some States promote and execute unilateral actions, some of which are related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These unilateral measures pose a threat to international peace and security, undermine multilateralism and multilateral agreements, and erode confidence in the international system and in the very foundations of the Organization.

As a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to many treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism. The multilateral decision-making process conducted through the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter and the principles of international law, is the only viable mechanism that can prevent the law of might is right from overtaking the international system and achieve the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2014]

Ecuador recognizes the Conference on Disarmament as the sole forum for multilateral negotiations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. It also considers that multilateralism is a basic mechanism to promote disarmament and non-proliferation and to seek effective international agreements that give assurances to States that do not possess weapons of mass destruction against the threat or use of such weapons.

In this context, Ecuador welcomes the positive contributions of the United Nations General Assembly to this process and to reaffirming the need to promote multilateralism as the main mechanism to guarantee international peace and security in the current international landscape, which is marked by the unilateral actions of some countries.

As an advocate and promoter of international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, Ecuador endorses all measures to prevent the emergence of conflicts and supports international instruments that are conducive to the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Ecuador also opposes an arms race in outer space.

Ecuador believes that, on issues of global concern, such as nuclear security, international meetings must be open to all States, in the interest of applying the principle of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[26 May 2014]

The Armed Forces of El Salvador are convinced of the need to comply with measures to achieve disarmament and non-proliferation. Consequently, in coordination with the national civilian police and the Attorney General of the

Republic of El Salvador, they have been taking into account current legislation (Act on the regulation and control of arms, ammunition, explosives and similar items) and have implemented the following measures:

Seizure of firearms

(a) The national civilian police have seized firearms in response to failure to comply with the Act;

(b) Firearms whose original physical characteristics have been altered have been confiscated by various Firearms Control and Registration offices.

Through different plans in support of public safety, collaborative efforts are being made with the authorities responsible for control and registration at the borders and unauthorized border crossings in order to prevent the illegal transfer of weapons of mass destruction and ensure that they do not fall into the hands of terrorist groups that seek to destabilize national, regional and global peace and security.

As a Member of the United Nations, El Salvador remains committed to working with international and regional organizations through its Armed Forces, specifically to combat the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia accords special attention to the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. It affirms that it is vital to continue to achieve progress on nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and emphasizes the responsibilities incumbent upon all States in that regard. Georgia stresses the fundamental responsibility of States, consistent with their respective national and international obligations, to safeguard all weapons of mass destruction, including materials that could be used in such weapons, and to prevent non-State actors from acquiring such materials and obtaining the information or technology required to use them for malicious purposes.

Georgia recognizes the importance of multilateral instruments that address disarmament and non-proliferation and urges all States to:

- Accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
- Take urgent action to eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Support efforts to advance disarmament globally
- Maintain a moratorium on nuclear test explosions pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and sign and ratify the Treaty

- Work with all States towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to prevent proliferation and advance disarmament

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

Iraq affirms the importance of a multilateral approach to disarmament and non-proliferation, given that multilateralism is a democratic, useful and valid negotiating method. Multilateralism ensures that a consensus is reached and that States respect their commitments under the international disarmament instruments to which they are parties. Iraq furthermore affirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy as the core principle of negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation, because resorting to dialogue and multilateral diplomacy can resolve tensions and conflict peacefully and ensure that those international issues are addressed transparently. The multilateral approach should underpin the Organization's efforts to urge all States to accede to the international instruments that are aimed at limiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the foremost of which are nuclear weapons, because of their highly destructive nature. It is difficult to maintain international peace and security without reaching common and practical solutions through negotiation and, subsequently, collective agreements. The goals of disarmament and arms control cannot be achieved unilaterally. Iraq believes that the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 68/38 is an important step towards promoting joint international action to unify multilateral efforts on disarmament and combating proliferation, particularly as the current global challenges require States to take collective and effective measures in order to address any threat to international peace and security. Such action is especially necessary in light of the proliferation of terrorist organizations and the fear that they may acquire materiel used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2014]

Nuclear disarmament is a historic demand that the international community made a commitment to meet, starting with the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly 69 years ago. As stipulated in the final document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (A/S-10/2), nuclear disarmament must be the topic of multilateral discussions, given that it affects every country on Earth, not only those that possess nuclear weapons.

Mexico is known for its firm commitment to disarmament and international peace and security, evinced by its active, constructive and proactive approach to seeking the prohibition and complete eradication of weapons of mass destruction, mainly in the area of nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control that adheres to the principles of irreversibility, verification and transparency.

Mexico emphasizes that unilateral measures and bilateral or regional agreements relating to disarmament and non-proliferation are not a substitute for agreements reached in multilateral negotiations on instruments that are universal in scope.

At the national level, the national security programme for 2014-2018, published on 30 April 2014 in the Official Gazette of the Federation, indicates that Mexico "will continue to actively and proactively promote initiatives in multilateral forums with a view to eliminating and prohibiting nuclear weapons and thereby maintaining and sustaining a world free from that scourge".

In that regard, in the past year Mexico has continued to undertake multilateral activities at the national and international levels to promote disarmament and non-proliferation, as it considers multilateralism to be the best way to maintain international peace and security.

The action taken by Mexico to promote disarmament includes the following:

– Mexico attaches great importance to the full implementation and universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, as the first legally binding multilateral instrument whose aim is general and complete disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, Mexico participates actively in meetings of governmental experts and States parties, promoting cooperation and assistance among States parties in order to build national capacities for addressing and preventing outbreaks of infectious diseases, prepare for potential attacks involving biological agents and reduce inequalities among countries that are at a more advanced level of scientific and technological development.

In addition, Mexico voluntarily submits a national report on confidence-building measures.

– Mexico participates in the Executive Council and the Conference of States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which has, in its 17 years of existence, achieved considerable progress towards its fundamental objective of eliminating chemical weapons in a complete and verifiable manner. On 11 October 2013, its tireless efforts were recognized when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

It should be noted that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons upholds the highest verification, inspection and transparency standards, which all disarmament regimes should aspire to attain. In that connection, the complete and timely destruction of the arsenals of three States parties has been verified, while the destruction of three other States' arsenals is in the process of being verified, in line with decisions adopted by the policymaking bodies of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The progress achieved in the programme for the destruction and verification of the chemical arsenal of the Syrian Arab Republic provides the most recent instance of successful cooperation both among Member States and, at the inter-agency level, between the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, and between the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Mexico actively promotes the universality and the effective implementation of the Convention. In that regard, Mexico will, as a matter of priority, continue urging the six States that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so promptly.

Moreover, Mexico attaches great importance to such activities, not prohibited by the Convention, as assistance and protection in the event of use of chemical weapons and international cooperation on the peaceful use of toxic chemical substances.

On the subject of nuclear disarmament, it is worth recalling that the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons mentions the obligation to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

In that connection, in addition to submitting and sponsoring draft resolutions in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on its own behalf and together with other like-minded countries, Mexico participates in the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mexico submitted the following resolutions:

- Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments (resolution 68/39)
- Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (resolution 68/46)
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (resolution 68/68)
- Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

As a member of the New Agenda Coalition and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, Mexico submitted several working papers at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2014.

During the Preparatory Committee meetings, the need to base the global security agenda for the twenty-first century on international law and the unrestricted protection of human beings was asserted. In effect, the stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction or the threat of use of such weapons are obstacles to the establishment of a global, effective, sustainable and indivisible security system.

– Furthermore, Mexico strives to ensure that consideration of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons serves as the basis for all disarmament actions. In that regard, Mexico was a party to the collective statements made at the first two sessions of the Preparatory Committee by 16 and 80 countries in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and by 36 and 125 countries at the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly. In addition, Mexico participated in the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact

of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo in 2013, and hosted the second conference on the same subject held in Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014.

- In order to follow up on the work of the Open-ended Working Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/56 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", and in light of the lack of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament over the last 18 years, at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Mexico was among the sponsors of resolution 68/46, in which the Assembly requested Member States to share their views on the report of the Working Group and on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and to consider the relevance of re-establishing the Working Group at the sixty-ninth session, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Charter of the United Nations.

- Mexico is a firm advocate of the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. In that connection, from September 2012 to September 2013 Mexico and Sweden were co-presidents of the Article XIV Conference to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty and in 2013 they carried out joint démarches with particular emphasis on the States mentioned in annex 2, whose signature and ratification are required to achieve that objective.

Mexico also has an expert serving in the Group of Eminent Persons set up by the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to bolster efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

- At another level, Mexico promotes non-proliferation objectives through its active participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency, whether as a full member or as an observer in the General Conference and the Board of Governors. Mexico was a member of the Board of Governors in 2007-2009 and 2011-2013.

In addition, by providing funds, in-kind contributions and human resources and sharing experiences and good practices, Mexico resolutely supports the consolidation and universality of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, with which it concluded an additional protocol that entered into force in 2011. It also supports efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of safeguards through better integrated verification activities, continuously updated technologies and better and more extensive analysis of information from different sources.

Similarly, Mexico cooperates fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the implementation of safeguards within its territory and maintains strict control of radioactive sources in the country, as a participant in the Agency's incident and trafficking database.

Mexico acknowledges that an effective and universal non-proliferation regime is inextricably linked to nuclear safety and security, hence its resolute support for International Atomic Energy Agency activities in those areas. In that connection, Mexico is a party to the main instruments in both areas, having ratified in 2012 the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

With regard to nuclear security, Mexico consistently collaborates with such International Atomic Energy Agency services as the International Physical Protection Advisory Service, whose recommendations have contributed to improving the security of nuclear and radioactive materials and have been extended to cover facilities and transport; the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service; and the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan.

In terms of cooperation on nuclear security, Mexico has become a reference and training centre for Central America and the Caribbean. In cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mexico hosts events for the Caribbean region on the establishment of nuclear regulatory entities that contribute to the creation of infrastructure for the control of radiation sources.

- Mexico participated in the three nuclear security summits held in Washington, D.C. (2010), Seoul (2012) and The Hague (2014). Within that framework, Mexico converted highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium for the TRIGA Mark III reactor at the National Nuclear Research Institute, in implementation of the trilateral agreement concluded with the United States of America and Canada, in close cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

- On 23 and 24 May 2013, Mexico hosted the eighth plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[19 June 2014]

Pakistan supports multilateralism as an effective tool to ensure successful disarmament and non-proliferation. The objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation cannot be achieved unilaterally. Concerted effort from all States of the world is required for the achievement of these goals. The country's support for multilateralism is amply exhibited in its stance at various disarmament and non-proliferation forums.

Dealing with the threat of proliferation through disarmament and non-proliferation was the raison d'être of the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery. Pakistan believes that the machinery should deal with all issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation in a balanced and equitable manner, while taking into consideration the security interests of all States. Pakistan believes in a non-discriminatory and all-inclusive approach in negotiating disarmament treaties. It is against adopting selective or exceptional treatment for a particular issue over others, which risks undermining States' fundamental security interests.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation should be promoted and pursued simultaneously; there are two sides to the coin. One cannot be pursued exclusively unless there is progress on the other. Pakistan supports disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives that are non-discriminatory, multilateral and follow the principle of equal and undiminished security for all States.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[13 May 2014]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of maintaining peace and security at the international level through disarmament and non-proliferation. Portugal is party to the most relevant treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats represented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas.

Among the mechanisms mentioned above, Portugal notes the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, and its protocols (including amendments); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on Cluster Munitions; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the Convention on Nuclear Safety; and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment. Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Portugal has participated in outreach activities intended to promote the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular with Portuguese-speaking countries, through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

On 23 July 2013, following the efforts in the area of disarmament, at a multilateral level, Portugal and 66 other States signed the Arms Trade Treaty, which is the first legal disarmament instrument adopted by the United Nations in the past decade.

Portugal participated in the second Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in April and May in Geneva. Portugal also participated in the coordination of the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and in the fourth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, which was held in Lusaka in September.

Portugal has played a relevant role, particularly with regard to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The Third Review Conference of the Convention will be held in Maputo in June, and Portugal has been invited to join the group of

friends of the presidency. In addition to providing material support, Portugal has been promoting the Convention domestically and to civil society, with a view to highlighting its relevance.

With regard to nuclear disarmament, Portugal recognizes the risk posed by countries that possess or seek to possess nuclear weapons, in particular in regions that are politically and socially instable.

The country's policies are aligned to those of its European partners and it supports the Western Mediterranean Forum (5+5 dialogue). Considering the importance of confidence-building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States with regard to nuclear disarmament, Portugal supports the full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will adopt, as soon as possible, a programme of work supporting the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty. To that end, Portugal highlights the importance of implementing the action plan for nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation agreed at the 2010 Review Conference, which covers disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Portugal has also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and is proceeding with outreach activities regarding its universalization.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2014]

1. Activities carried out by Ukraine in 2013 in implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC)

1.1. The purpose of Ukraine's participation in international events related to the Biological Weapons Convention is to expand its economic, scientific and technological cooperation with other States parties in order to promote the full and effective development of its domestic bioindustry, medicine and agribusiness.

One of the initiatives currently put forward by Ukraine in this regard is a proposal for the establishment within the BWC Implementation Support Unit of an advisory council in the form of an open-ended working group made up of scientific experts from States parties mandated to analyse biological risks in the context of the linkages between the Convention and the latest developments in the field of biology, and to provide relevant documents for consideration by the States parties.

1.2. As part of the multilateral dialogue on the Convention, Ukraine engaged in bilateral and multilateral consultations in 2013 with representatives of the European Union (EU) and Poland (on the possibility of establishing a specialized centre on biosafety in Ukraine); the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on cooperation in the field of veterinary medicine and adaptation of Ukrainian legislation in that area); Denmark (on learning from Danish experience in the establishment of a national biosafety system); Italy (on the development of scientific cooperation and training of Ukrainian experts at the Milan biosafety level 4 laboratory for the study of highly dangerous pathogens); and the United Nations

Office for Disarmament Affairs and Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (on the participation of Ukraine in scientific research on biosafety).

Multilateral cooperation in the following areas is particularly relevant for Ukraine at present: receiving technical assistance in the area of medicine and veterinary medicine, particularly in the context of combating infectious diseases; enhancing legislation on biosafety; and receiving assistance in combating natural, intended and unintended biological threats.

In 2013, Ukraine actively participated in regular meetings on Global Partnership programmes, which are held in order to discuss a wide range of issues, including biosafety and biosecurity, reduction of biological risks and compliance with bioethical standards when working with dual-use materials.

1.3. In the context of promoting the universalization and strengthening of global regimes for the prohibition and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, enhancing international cooperation in the field of biosafety and biosecurity, and ensuring the peaceful development of biological science, Ukraine organized the following events, which were attended by representatives of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, EU, the World Health Organization, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), INTERPOL, the States parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and a number of leading scientific and academic institutions:

- Regional seminar on the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for the countries of Eastern Europe (Kyiv, 27-29 May 2013). The main organizers were the Ukrainian Biochemical Society and the Geneva office of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, with financial support from the EU project on the implementation of the Convention.
- Workshop on "Evaluation of implementation and the role of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in achieving the goals of non-proliferation and disarmament" (Kyiv, 5 and 6 November 2013).

In addition, a number of activities aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation on the regulatory framework for the Convention were also conducted:

- National scientific and practical conference on "Current problems of antibiotic resistance, disinfection and sterilization", with international participation (Kyiv, 5 April 2013).
- Scientific and practical conference on "Pharmacotherapy of infectious diseases" (Kyiv, 11 and 12 April 2013).
- Scientific and practical conference on "Scientific aspects of the evolution of contagious-disease pathogens", as part of the "Med ComplEX — 2013" international medical forum and exhibition (Kyiv, 19 April 2013).
- Scientific and practical conference on "European Immunization Week: Prevent. Protect. Immunize" (Kyiv, 25 April 2013).
- International seminar on the theme of "Upgrading and harmonizing the programme for control of spongiform encephalopathy in large livestock and other types of prion infections, and monitoring for prion infections" (Kyiv, April 2013).

- Seminar on "Priority actions to implement State veterinary care monitoring and oversight to protect against the entry into Ukraine and outbreaks of particularly dangerous infectious diseases, and stock-taking of inspection work — prosecution of administrative offences" (Volyn province, second quarter of 2013).
- International congress on veterinary medicine to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine, a national research centre (Kharkiv, September 2013).
- National seminar on validating methodologies in accordance with recent EU decisions.
- Workshop on the theme of "State control and oversight of the implementation and effectiveness of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system in entities supervised by the State Veterinary Medical Service" (Kyiv, second quarter of 2013).
- National research and practical seminar on the theme of "Modern approaches to metrology and quality control in State veterinary medicine laboratories in Ukraine" (Poltava, third quarter of 2013).
- Seminar on the theme of "International experience and preparatory stages in designing and implementing practical arrangements for the introduction of good manufacturing practices (GMP) by enterprises: developing a plan and subsequent steps in preparing for accreditation of good manufacturing practices" (Kyiv province, October 2013).
- Scientific and practical conference on "Infectious diseases: unresolved issues (diagnosis, etiopathogenesis, treatment, prevention)" (Kyiv, 10 and 11 October 2013).

2. Activities carried out by Ukraine in 2013 in implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC)

Fully sharing the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression, Ukraine, during its term as Chair of the Executive Board of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from 11 May 2013 to 11 May 2014, made efforts to ensure the efficient work of the Organization, in particular to resolve the Syrian crisis.

The outcome of these efforts was the adoption, under Ukraine's chairmanship, of the Executive Council's historic decision No. EC-M-33/DEC.1 of 27 September 2013 entitled "Destruction of Syrian chemical weapons", which served as the basis for Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and opened the possibility for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The actions of OPCW during the chairmanship of Ukraine were commended by the international community. The 2013 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Organization in recognition of its important role in activities aimed at the total elimination of chemical weapons as one type of weapon of mass destruction.

At the national level, Ukraine is faithfully fulfilling its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. In particular, Ukraine sees multilateral cooperation as one of the important means through which to implement the Convention effectively, not only in the field of chemical disarmament but also with a view to the peaceful development of industry and science.

In 2013 Ukraine, in cooperation with OPCW, organized and carried out the following activities, which were attended by representatives of the organization's member States:

- Training course on providing emergency medical assistance to victims of chemical incidents or attacks, including those involving chemical warfare agents (Kyiv, 20-24 May 2013).
- Skills upgrading course for specialists in the field of analytical chemistry (Kyiv, 20-25 May 2013).

III. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

Support for effective multilateralism is one of the guiding principles of the European Union's strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which was adopted in 2003. Promoting the universality of international treaties, conventions and other instruments remains an overall aim of the European Union in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, in accordance with the objectives of the strategy. The European Union initiatives underpinned by that principle have implied both political support for the multilateral instruments and financial support for the relevant international agencies, with the general objective of enhancing the credibility of the multilateral regime in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nuclear issues

The European Union has been actively involved in the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by providing political support for the universalization and implementation of the Treaty. Together with the Non-Proliferation Consortium, the European Union has organized seminars to promote confidence-building and to support the process of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East.

The European Union has enhanced its support to the International Atomic Energy Agency and remains a key donor to the Nuclear Security Fund. The European Union has continued to provide support for the Agency's activities with regard to cases of non-compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Represented by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, the European Union has continued to engage in efforts, in the E3+3 format (China, France, Germany, the Russian

Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue that would restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. In November 2013, the six countries and Iran reached an agreement on a joint plan of action, which is a first confidence-building step towards reaching a long-term comprehensive solution.

The European Union has continued to call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to full compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the safeguards obligations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The European Union has also continued to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to refrain from any further provocative acts, in particular in the form of new nuclear tests.

The European Union has conducted political demarches to promote the universalization of the additional protocol to the comprehensive safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The European Union has actively promoted the universalization and early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, based on the relevant Council Decisions in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, by conducting outreach efforts towards all countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty.

The European Union has been persistent in pressing for the immediate start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

Chemical issues

The European Union has continued to support the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in accordance with a Council Decision adopted in March 2012 and implemented by the Organization's technical secretariat. The European Union, which contributes 40 per cent of the Organization's budget for disarmament and non-proliferation projects worldwide, participated actively in the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (8-19 April 2013), with the aim of strengthening the regime and promoting its universalization and full national implementation.

On the occasion of the Third Special Session, the European Union conducted a series of demarches on universalization through its delegations in the countries not yet signatories of the Convention.

The European Union has contributed financially (a total of over €16 million) and in-kind (armoured vehicles and satellite imagery) to the operations conducted by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations under the joint mission to dismantle and destroy Syrian chemical weapons.

Biological issues

The European Union has continued to support the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction through a Council Decision adopted in July 2012 and implemented by the Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which is based in Geneva.

The European Union adopted a new Council Decision in November 2013 in support of the activities of the World Health Organization in the areas of biosafety and biosecurity.

The European Union has been actively engaged in the inter-sessional process of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The European Union attended the meeting of experts (12-16 August 2013) and the meeting of States parties (9-13 December 2013) and delivered statements in both the general and the thematic debates.

Missiles

The European Union has continued to provide strong support for the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and its universalization. All the States members of the European Union have subscribed to the International Code.

The European Union and the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique have continued to support not only the International Code but also missile non-proliferation in general. Pursuant to the Council Decision adopted in July 2012 (which was implemented by the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique), the European Union organized outreach activities for non-signatory States, in addition to workshops, seminars and awareness-building sessions. The Fondation pour la recherche stratégique also organized a side event on the margins of the plenary meeting of the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, which was held in Vienna in May 2013. A regional seminar was also organized in Singapore on 24 November 2013.

Missile Technology Control Regime

The European Union has continued to play an active role in supporting its nine member States that are still not members of the Missile Technology Control Regime. The European External Action Service prepared and delivered statements in that regard at the twenty-fifth plenary meeting of the Missile Technology Control Regime, which was held in Rome in September 2013.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The European Union boosted its support to third countries with a view to helping them to meet their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and to

enhancing the skills of State officials involved in the export control process, by organizing joint regional workshops with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and by carrying out bilateral visits.

A new Council Decision was adopted in July 2013 in support of the practical implementation of activities under resolution 1540 (2004). The implementing contract started in October 2013 and two regional events organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs took place in 2013 in Africa.

Reinforced coordination has been decided on and carried out by the European External Action Service, the European Commission, the European Union's chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear "centres of excellence" initiative, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee and its group of experts. The first meeting was held in December 2013.

Space

Since 2007, the European Union has been promoting the development of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, which was formally presented to the international community in Vienna in June 2012.

The European Union intends to develop the code further in an inclusive and transparent manner, and has held three rounds of open-ended consultations on the draft code, in Kiev (May 2013), Bangkok (November 2013) and Luxembourg (May 2014), with the participation of more than 60 States on each occasion.

The European Union contributed to the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which, in its report of July 2013, noted the work on the code of conduct and endorsed efforts to pursue political commitments, such as "a multilateral code of conduct to encourage responsible actions in, and the peaceful use of, outer space".